(d) whether it is also a fact that women are found to be better suited for these jobs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) There are two Mahila Battalions and women components in all RAF Battalions in CRPF. Women are recruited in all ranks in CISF. In NSG, women have been allowed for some kind of duties.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The performance of women in Central Police Forces is comparable with that of men in the Force.

Deaths in jails

327. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the total number of deaths reported in various jails in the country due to inhuman treatment and third degree methods adopted by police officials;

(b) whether National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) have urged the Government to formulate certain guidelines while dealing with prisoners in jail;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government have acted on the advice of NHRC and issued directives to State Governments, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) As per the information received from the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), 1340 cases of custodial deaths including 1157 in judicial custody and 183 in police custody have been reported during the period from 1.4.2002 to 31.3.2003. There are various reasons for these deaths, which include natural deaths, deaths due to illness, inadequate medical attention and deaths due to atrocities allegedly committed while in custody.

(b) and (c) The NHRC has issued instructions from time to time to State Governments for improving conditions of jails, providing medical

treatment to prisoners, their humane treatment and in dealing with matters relating to deaths in police and judicial custody.

(d) The Central Government have impressed upon the states regularly drawing their attention to the recommendations made by various expert committees including those of the NHRC for improving the conditions of jails. Besides providing financial assistance for modernization of prison administration, the Central Government has also circulated a draft Model Prison Manual among the States, which takes into account the concerns of the NHRC.

Crimes in South Delhi

328. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of increase in crime rate in South Delhi during the last six months;

(b) if so, how many cases of murder, dacoity, rape, extortion, encroachment on land etc. have been reported in various police stations in South Delhi during the last six months;

(c) whether some erring police officials have been transferred for dereliction of duty and other offences; and

(d) if so, the complete details thereof, and the steps being taken to improve the law and order situation in South Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Role of ordinar people in country's security

329. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Deputy Prime Minister had advocated a greater role for ordinary people in dealing with the country's security speaking at the 12th Civil Defence and Home Guards Conference on 20th March;